UNITED
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General Assembly

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A/RES/54/162
23 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 116 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/605/Add.2)*]

54/162. Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and its subsequent resolutions thereon,

Considering that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural heritage of society as a whole in the States in which such persons live,

Concerned by the frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts concerning minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and concerned also that persons belonging to minorities are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, *inter alia*, population transfers, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an increasingly important role to play regarding the protection of minorities by, *inter alia*, taking due account of and giving effect to the Declaration,

Noting that the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights[1] of the Commission on Human Rights held its fourth and fifth sessions from 25 to 29 May 1998[2] and 25 to 31 May 1999,[3] respectively,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

3. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, including through the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country;

4. *Also urges* States to take, as appropriate, all the necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the Declaration;

5. *Recognizes* that respect for human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by Governments as well as between and among minorities are central to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

6. *Appeals* to States to make bilateral and multilateral efforts, as appropriate, in order to protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in their countries, in accordance with the Declaration;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote, within her mandate, the implementation of the Declaration and to continue to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation among United Nations programmes and agencies on activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities and to take the work of relevant regional organizations active in the field of human rights into account in her endeavours;

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[1] Formerly known as the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

[2] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/18.

[3] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/21.

[4] A/54/303.

10. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner to resume inter-agency consultations with United Nations programmes and agencies on minority issues, and urges those programmes and agencies to contribute actively to this process;

11. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

12. *Calls upon* the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights to implement further its mandate with the involvement of a wide range of participants;

13. *Invites* the High Commissioner to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the effective participation, including through training seminars, in the work of the Working Group on Minorities of representatives of non-governmental organizations and persons belonging to minorities, in particular those from developing countries;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on good practices in the fields of education and the effective participation of minorities in decision-making processes;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of this question at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/605/Add.2)*]

54/163. Human rights in the administration of justice

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the principles embodied in articles 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto,[2] in particular article 6 of the Covenant, which, *inter alia,* states that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life and prohibits the imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed by persons below eighteen years of age, and article 10, which provides that all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person,

Bearing in mind also the relevant provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[3] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex, and resolution 44/128, annex.

[3] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[4] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[5] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Recalling in particular article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, according to which every child deprived of liberty shall be treated in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age,

Mindful of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] in particular of the obligation of States to treat men and women equally in all stages of procedures in courts and tribunals,

Calling attention to the numerous international standards in the field of the administration of justice,

Aware of the need for special vigilance with regard to the vulnerable situation of children and juveniles, as well as women and girls, in detention,

Recalling the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System[7] and the establishment of a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice,

Emphasizing that the right to access to justice as contained in applicable international human rights instruments forms an important basis for strengthening the rule of law through the administration of justice,

Mindful of the importance of establishing the rule of law and promoting human rights in the administration of justice, in particular in post-conflict situations, as a crucial contribution to building peace and justice,

Recalling its resolution 52/124 of 12 December 1997, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/39 of 17 April 1998[8] and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/28 of 28 July 1999 on the administration of juvenile justice,[9]

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full and effective implementation of all United Nations standards on human rights in the administration of justice;

2. *Reiterates its call* to all Member States to spare no effort in providing for effective legislative mechanisms and procedures, as well as adequate resources, to ensure the full implementation of those standards;

3. *Invites* Governments to provide training, including gender-sensitive training, in human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, to all judges, lawyers, prosecutors, social workers, immigration and police officers, and other professionals concerned, including personnel deployed in international field presences;

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[6] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[7] Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, annex.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[9] E/1999/INF/2/Add.2. For the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 1* (E/1999/99).

4. *Stresses* the special need for national capacity-building in the field of the administration of justice in post-conflict situations, in particular through reform of the judiciary, the police and the penal system;

5. *Invites* States to make use of technical assistance offered by the relevant United Nations programmes in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in the field of the administration of justice;

6. *Invites* the international community to respond favourably to requests for financial and technical assistance for the enhancement and strengthening of the administration of justice;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies, including special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups, to continue to give special attention to questions relating to the effective promotion of human rights in the administration of justice and to provide, where appropriate, specific recommendations in this regard, including proposals for measures to provide advisory services and technical assistance;

8. *Takes note* of the increased attention paid to the issue of juvenile justice by the High Commissioner, and encourages further activities, within her mandate, in this regard;

9. *Encourages* the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and United Nations institutes in the areas of human rights and crime prevention and criminal justice, and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including national professional associations concerned with promoting United Nations standards in this field, to continue to develop their activities in promoting human rights in the administration of justice;

10. *Calls upon* the coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice to increase cooperation among the partners involved, to share information and pool their capacities and interests in order to increase the effectiveness of programme implementation;

11. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to coordinate closely their activities relating to the administration of justice;

12. *Underlines* the importance of rebuilding and strengthening structures for the administration of justice and respect for the rule of law and human rights in post-conflict situations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure system-wide coordination and coherence of programmes and activities of the relevant parts of the United Nations system in the field of the administration of justice in post-conflict situations, including assistance provided through United Nations field presences;

13. *Decides* to consider the question of human rights in the administration of justice at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999